

HUNTING RARE ANIMALS IN AFRICA.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

GABON RIVER, April 21, 1859.

Having been for these last four years hunting in the immense wilds of Western Central Africa, and having had many times the opportunity of hunting after that most formidable animal, the *Troglodytes Gorilla*, or African Ngora, Ngora, or Ngora, and having met with many and killed a few, I have tried to study, to the best of my abilities, its habits, mode of living, and other peculiarities. And without pride I may count myself as the first white man who has seen alive, met and killed this wild animal; and I have sent off lately the largest and best preserved specimen in America or Europe. More than two years ago, I sent perfect specimens of adult Gorilla females to Philadelphia; and six months ago I sent to the same Academy the specimen of the largest Gorilla ever seen. No bigger one can be possibly found or killed; its size was a great object of wonder to the natives. This animal belongs in some degree to the Orang-Outang Chimpanzee family, but is far more formidable than any of them. Below is the measurement of two sent to Philadelphia: One male measured from the extremity of one arm to the other, seven feet and four inches; his height was six feet and a half; the circumference of his big toe was five inches and a half. The other measured from the extremity of one arm to the other, nine feet and four inches; his height was almost seven feet and a half, and the circumference of his toe six inches and a half. You may judge by these measurements of the immense size of these animals. The jaws of the Ngora are immensely powerful, especially in the male, the head of which is also defended by a crest, rising gradually from the forehead up. This peculiarity makes it quite different from the skull of a man. The hair is short, and is of a reddish-brown color; the hair of the body in the female is black. I have killed one of which the lower part of the back was of reddish-brown also. Among the males the hair is shorter, grayer, and thin in the middle of the back; many have long black hair on the arms; the face, hands and feet are intensely black; the eyes are gray. The muscular power of their arms and the size of their fingers indicate a prodigious force. I have seen a tree three or four inches in diameter broken by them. Their arms are much longer in proportion than their legs, but the bones of the latter are much stronger and thicker; and the capacity of the chest shows also the immense power of the animal. The skeleton of man is very slim and delicate in comparison. The intensely exaggerated features of the face, its large and deep eye-balls, give to the animal, especially the male, an expression of savage ferocity even, I think, in no other animal. From the immense canine teeth by which the jaws of the male are defended, one would naturally suppose that the force of the animal lay principally in its jaws, and that its principal means of defense was there. But this is a mistake; the prodigious strength of the monster lies more in his hands and feet, which he uses indiscriminately. One of my hunters, who wounded a male, paid for his temerity with his life; the animal seized him with one hand, took hold of his abdomen, and tore the flesh and intestines with the other, and with his teeth stripped his right arm of all the flesh. I have succeeded in getting, at different times, five young Gorillas, captured after the killing of the mother. I observed that when they wanted to bite me they used to take hold of me first with their feet. I have never been able to tame any of them, or to accustom them to eat anything but wild nuts and berries of the forest. In this particular the Gorilla is quite unlike the Chimpanzee, which is easily tamed.

Though one would naturally suppose, from the canine teeth of the Ngora, that he sometimes lives on meat, I must say that I never met in the stomach of any specimen anything else than vegetable matter, such as nuts, wild berries and fruits and leaves. Although skeletons of this animal have been taken to Europe or America, I have seen but very incorrect and exaggerated accounts concerning it. The two confounding ship captains or others have been too apt to take for granted the stories related to them by the natives of the coast concerning this really wonderful animal, which is to them an object of great terror. In their superstitious fears, the natives of the interior say that bad men are changed sometimes into Ngoras. The one who killed my hunter was said to be a Ngora that had been a man first and no gun could kill him.

I have met with the Gorilla, or Ngora, or Ngora, or Ngora, as it is indifferently called, along the waters of the Muni River, as far as the Sierra del Crystal Mountains; how much further north or east they are found I cannot tell. It is found also on the head waters of the Gabon River, and in the undulating prairies and woodlands of the interior between Gabon and Cape Lopez. I have found it also up the Fernand-Vay River, in the mountainous regions of that river, and up the Nazareth in the Kong Mountains, and in all the surrounding hilly countries; and were it not that I had found the Gorilla very abundant in a flat prairie and woody country back of the Camma country, I should say that it lives only in hilly or mountainous regions. In the Camma country, where pineapples are very abundant, they feed on the white portions of the leaves, which they pluck out of the pineapple plant.

At certain seasons they live in pairs, but I have more frequently seen them in troops of five—four females and one male. I have never seen more than five together. The old males are found wandering alone in the forest.

The Gorilla is very shy, and when met several together I have never seen them face a man. It is then exceedingly difficult to approach them; the least noise generally disturbs them in their retreat. They sometimes inhabit the forest near the towns, and come during the still hours of early morning to eat the plantains and sugar cane planted by the natives. The Gorilla is to be dreaded only when the male is surprised with the female, or when he is looking for her; but the most to be feared above all is the old and lonely male, which, when disturbed in his solitude, offers you battle wherever he meets you. While in the Ashira country, I was hunting with the best Ashira hunter, Gambo by name, and we were following the tracks of one, which seemed to avoid us. When he finally got tired of being pursued, he made a stand for us, and while we were crawling through the forest, he started us by the most formidable cry I had ever heard, resembling in some measure the barking of a dog. Often I have heard Ngoras three miles off, roaring like lions. This old inhabitant of the forest eyed us and squatted down, and uttering frightful roars, quite enough to frighten anybody, beat his bare chest several times with his powerful hands, then advanced a few steps and repeated the same motions. It was a moment of life or death with us. We aimed at him and shot him dead—I shooting him right through the heart, and Gambo through the neck. When wounded, the

male Ngora pursues the hunter and kills him, and the natives of the interior say that in his wild rage he will then break the gun and twist the barrel as if it were lead. From the strength of the animal, I can easily believe this.

The female is, I think, not to be dreaded. I have never seen one make a stand, but I suppose that sometimes they might do it.

The flesh of the Ngora is considered by the Ashira people as the greatest dainty.

Unlike the Chimpanzee, the Gorilla never builds or constructs nests; they sleep on the ground. The old males never sleep on a tree. The natives have told me that sometimes the females sleep on the branches of trees, while the male sleeps at the foot of it to watch them; but this I think is seldom the case. I have always seen the Ngora, when unsexpected, sleeping on the ground protected either by big rocks or big trees. I have only seen them on trees while eating, and then the male often watches at the foot of the tree. Their mode of progression is by all-fours, using their hands as feet. They sometimes walk erect toward fruits which oblige them to do so in order to get them, but in many other cases.

In many countries, where the Gorilla was very common, it has been impossible for me to get near them, they were so shy, and after two or three days hunt in the forest none could be seen for twenty or thirty miles round. They dislike to be disturbed in their solitude, and though they come round the villages, as I have said, as soon as they perceive that they are tracked, they will leave the place.

As to the Gorilla attacking elephants or sucking villages, these are but mere stories.

I consider the male to be one of the most frightful and terrible animals in the world.

I have made the discovery of another animal while traveling in the Kong Mountains—a species between the Ngora and Chimpanzee, and similar, in some respects, to both of them. It is called Koula or Koulan Kamba; it is very curious, and its face is surrounded by whiskers. I have had but a single specimen of this extraordinary new species, which is considered very rare by the natives of the interior. It is much larger than the Chimpanzee or female Ngora, but not so large as the male Ngora.

FROM CAIRO TO ADEEN.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

RED SEA, NEAR ADEEN, May 11, 1859.

Four times a month the steamers of the gigantic Peninsular and Oriental Company leave Southampton and Marseilles for Alexandria, with mails and passengers for every part of Southern and Eastern Asia, Australia and the Indian Archipelago. By means of their innumerable branches, all the Indian Presidencies, China, Mauritius, Ceylon, the Dutch Indies, the Philippines, are brought within a few weeks of London; yet, the American public is quite unfamiliar, I believe, with the manner in which the transit from Europe to the furthest East is accomplished, although Americans are to be found on nearly every steamer homeward or outward bound. The great system of intercommunication managed by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, owes its origin to the genius of Lieut. Waghorn, R. N., who, in the infancy of ocean steam navigation, saw the advantages of, and established, what is known as the Overland Route to India. This route is "overland" only in the same sense that the Panama route from New-York to San Francisco is so, i. e., in contradistinction to the sea voyage round the Cape. At the first establishment of this transit line, monthly steamers starting from Southampton took passengers to Alexandria, whence they toiled up the rivers and canal to Cairo, and thence crossed the desert to Suez on camels, and subsequently in vans, several days being occupied in the journey. At present the steamers are weekly, and the journey from Alexandria to Suez is accomplished in a few hours by means of the Egyptian Railway.

On the 25th of April the steamship Ellora, 1,700 tons burden, sailed from Marseilles, with the letter post of the India and China mail, and such of the passengers as chose to embark from that port, instead of sailing eight days previously in the corresponding steamer from Southampton, both being due at Alexandria about the same day. The mails, in large sheet-iron boxes, arrived by the express train at 3 1/2 p. m.; were immediately brought on board—boxes for Aden, Ceylon, Calcutta, Madras, Singapore, Java, Manila, Hong Kong, Canton, Shanghai, Japan; and shortly after five the vessel steamed from the harbor, in which the nine steam transports lay with troops on board, ready to sail that evening for Genoa. On the 29th, Corfu, and the 1st of May we stop for 6 or 7 hours at Malta, where all the passengers go ashore, to be received by cunning Maltese, to visit the famous cathedral of St. John and the Governor's palace, to take a peep at the grand harbor, in which lies four of the finest line of battle-ships afloat, and to spend all their loose change in purchasing flagrant trinkets, coral studs and bracelets, and Malta lace.

Among the passengers by the Ellora were several Americans, principally China merchants; but they included also Gen. Ward of Westchester Co., N. Y., who, with his daughter, was on his way to take a glimpse of Egypt, although they were chosen for the purpose a month or far too near the warmest season.

It is usual for the steamers to reach Alexandria on the morning of the seventh day from Marseilles, and their passengers are landed immediately, hurried on board the railway carriages, and sent through to Suez, a distance of 230 miles, without interruption. In our case we were more fortunate. The Ellora reached Alexandria on the sixth evening, and by 7 o'clock the next morning her passengers were ashore, with two hours before them to be spent in visiting the city. Then followed the time-honored and never-to-be-forgotten but already sufficiently-described interruption into bazaars, and gallops to the citadel, and struggles with heathen donkey boys, until 9 o'clock found the whole company once more assembled in the railway station outside the town.

A stranger melody of Eastern and Western civilization and customs cannot be imagined. Station and platform built of Yankee lumber, engines and carriages bearing the names of Birmingham and Manchester makers, Arab baggage-smashers, Greek attendants, and passengers of every nation under heaven! The carriages, built after the French model, are of three classes. The first were monopolized by the P. and O. passengers; the second were chiefly filled with respectable Levantines and Egyptian merchants or subordinate officials; while the long line of third class carriages was crammed with the lowest order of Egyptian vagabondism, who, however, outdid in picturesque quality all the rest. Of course, we were half an hour later than the schedule time, but the interval was enjoyably passed in watching the variegated crowd upon the platform, comprising every conceivable costume of the Orient, from the sober-suited Turkish trader to the theatrical Arnaout, of whom one gorgeous specimen, nearly seven feet high, and bristling with daggers, pistols, and other weapons, stalked up and down. A door opens, and a Pasha of inferior rank appears—a score of people dash forward and struggle for the privilege of kissing his greasy hand. Another door is thrown open, and a cockney traveler, rather belated, dashes upon the platform, almost overturning the stolid official, and struggles into a compartment. At last there is a whistle, and a general scamper of the circumambient crowd—another whistle, and we are off. The railway traveler in Egypt has little to complain of in point of comfort. His carriages are admirably built, with the roof for the sake of coolness, and the motion is easier than on any American railway on which I have ever had the happiness of being joined. For miles beyond Alexandria the road follows

the coast-line—the shallow Mediterranean on the right, and gardens, palm plantations, country-houses and wretched mud villages on the left. By and by, we catch a view of Pompey's Pillar, erect, on a hill-side, as if the pride that dictated its construction had not departed from the fallen land, and then we waver inland. In despite of the temperature of 85° in the shade, few of the passengers resist the temptation to keep an eye on the country as they hurry through. They behold a dead level, broken here and there with a dead leap, representing a village, or with a palm-tree, scattered at melancholy distances. Now and then, a group of naked children are seen guarding a few mud-crusted buffaloes, wallowing all in the ditch which follows the railway, to serve as a drain during the periodical inundations; the whole country is alive with flocks of wild duck, paddy birds, white cranes, and a dozen other mythological varieties; and now and then a camel rumbles along, or a donkey ambles, bearing some worthy Egyptian to his destination. Over all a brazen heaven is spread, and the very draft produced by the moving train seems warm. At noon we see the Nile, and stop on its left bank, for the railway bridge is not built yet and we must cross in a steamer to the opposite shore, the village of Kafr-Azziz. Down we are hurled, surrounded by filthy children clamoring for Buchsheer, which none of them receive, but many hearty cursing in stilted English and prickly French. All sentiment is postponed to a cooler season, as we are terrified over the historic river; and we toiled up the bank, over a seemingly interminable tract of sunbaked mud, and into the refreshment-room, with a feeling of surprise that we are equal to the exertion of existence. Fortunately, however, the French and Egyptian servants of the Transit Company have wind of our arrival, and there is no lack of drinkables as well as eatables, with which we become moderately cooled and refreshed. In about an hour the mails and baggage are all brought across, and by 1 o'clock the little carriages formed at Alexandria are arranged in fresh carriages, en route for Cairo.

Cairo was reached at a little after 4 o'clock, and here we learn that we are not to leave for Suez before 9 o'clock. In a few minutes everybody is off for the hotel—the Orient and Shepherd's, the best institutions of the place. Then follow new incursions into the penetralia of Arab life; irreverent laughter in holy places of Sultan Mahmoud's and Sultan Gauruk's mosques; drinking of coffee in bazars, and buying of many pipestems, slippers, fezzees, and the like, till 7 o'clock brings everybody home to dinner. The meal and accommodations are paid for by the Peninsular Company, and between 8 and 9 o'clock, we are off again for the station—your correspondent alone, trusting himself to the tender mercies of a donkey and his driver, while the remainder chose to be coupled up in stifling omnibuses for conveyance to the train. Notwithstanding the represented dangers of high-dose to the water from an Arabian well, and here the train, the Desert Transit began.

It is only within a few months that the whole line of rail, 84 miles long, from Cairo to Suez, has been completed. Previously, a portion of the Transit was accomplished with the help of steam, and then the passengers, dumped into the midst of the burning desert, were shipped by sixes in vans no larger than New-York drays, and conveyed to the head of the Red Sea. Now, however, one falls asleep at Cairo, and is whirled through the darkness over the frightful waste which was once strewn with the bones of worn-out animals and men. A peculiar contrivance in the way of railway chairs is used in bolting down the rails, and each locomotive has a species of sand-pile before it, to keep the line clear of the ever-drifting sand. One stoppage is made, about 50 miles from Cairo, to take in water from an Artesian well, and here the sand-draws of the desert, cold fluid are gulped down to the sorrow of more than one, by and by. About half-past three there is barking of dogs, glancing of lights; the sleepers wake up, to hear Arab voices shouting: Suez! The train has stopped, apparently, in the midst of the desert; only, a long distance ahead, are some lights, and close by stand half-a-dozen vans. Into these the foremost have crowded, and the more leisurely are left in the darkness to find Suez as best they may. With one companion, I made for the distant lights, ploughing our way through the sand, until the earth gives way beneath me, and I find myself at the bottom of a pit some eight feet deep. My exclamations warn Captain, who steps short, and helps me out; and at length we pick up a ragged Egyptian, who pilots us to the "Hotel." In this massive stone caravanserai, we find a tolerable supper, provided by the Company, awaiting us; after consumption of which, amid much good humor and jocularity in many languages, we are escorted to a little steamer, waiting to take us five miles down the shallows to the great steamer Nemesis, our floating home for the next sixteen days.

That was a glorious trip down the silent Gulf, lighted here and there with torches held in the boats! The sky miles deep with stars, and stars no longer winking, but as if they were looking down on the Arab sailors and the chorus of Eastern travelers, singing Ethiopian songs! At length we bring to under the side of our steamer, one of the fleet formed by six of her sister vessels, and a British man-of-war; and then the tired voyagers seek out berths, in which to get at least a few moments' sleep before the sunlight comes. At 7 it is already hot—80 degrees; and then the shaking down process begins. The sleeping-cabins are built to hold four and five, although in the largest not more than three can stand upright once—but as we are only 60 in all, there are not more than two in each, exclusive of cockroaches an inch long, and of scorpions and centipedes, casual visitors.

In the afternoon we get under way, and steam our twelve knots an hour down the placid sea, day after day. Now we see Africa, now Asia, now overboard the vessels lying down to sea to see them. The chant of the Arab sailors and the chorus of Eastern travelers, singing Ethiopian songs! At length we bring to under the side of our steamer, one of the fleet formed by six of her sister vessels, and a British man-of-war; and then the tired voyagers seek out berths, in which to get at least a few moments' sleep before the sunlight comes. At 7 it is already hot—80 degrees; and then the shaking down process begins. The sleeping-cabins are built to hold four and five, although in the largest not more than three can stand upright once—but as we are only 60 in all, there are not more than two in each, exclusive of cockroaches an inch long, and of scorpions and centipedes, casual visitors.

While I write, under a fanning punkah, pulled by a dusky Hindoo squatting behind me, the perspiration stands in beads on hands and face, and it is nine at night! Almost time for "seven-water" and for turning in, moreover. To-morrow night, the fifth from Suez, we shall reach Aden, that sunbaked British rock which has been described as "H—l with the fire gone out," and after cooling, we strike across the Indian Ocean to Ceylon. May cooler glances attend us there!

INTERESTING FROM CANADA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

TORONTO, June 24, 1859.

The question of forming a Customs Union with the United States is likely soon to engage some attention here. During the late session of Parliament, the Committee on Commerce reported in favor of such a Union, to be established on the principle of the German Zollverein. Owing to some informality—the want of a quorum when the report was adopted, I believe—the report could not be laid before the House, and the result has been that it has, up to this time, been suppressed.

I hear, however, that Mr. Merritt, the Chairman of the Committee, will publish it shortly, when, of course, the question will come under discussion. The most obvious objection which, at first sight, presents itself to the minds of many persons against such a project is that, wearing the appearance of discriminating against English manufactures and in favor of American, it would encounter the Imperial veto. The Committee, I understand, have anticipated this objection, and endeavored to neutralize it. They show that the people of the United States consume more British manufactures per head than do those of Canada, and that consequently, as they argue, the proposed Customs Union would not operate disadvantageously toward England; that so far from decreasing the amount of British manufactures consumed in Canada, it would have the contrary effect. If the Imperial Government could be convinced of this, probably they would have no objection to the scheme. But if there was reason to suppose that it would operate to the disadvantage of English manufactures, they would be sure to oppose it; and for it is not reasonable to suppose that England would consent

to allow Canada to discriminate against her manufactures, while she pays for the defense of the country. Certain it is that such a measure would be closely scrutinized in England, where, just now, there is a disposition to complain of the augmentation of the Canadian tariff for revenue—but as it is there falsely alleged for protective purposes.

Two instances of this kind of complaint—of which the province will certainly not take the least notice—have recently occurred. At St. John's, the Chamber of Commerce had a conference with the newly-elected member for that borough on the subject; and Mr. Roebuck revived the old and exploded theory that colonies are made for the benefit of the mother country; that Canada has no right to place any import duty upon British manufactures, but ought to be as free to Sheffield goods as Berkshire is. He did not propose that those notions should remain barren and unproductive; but that the Imperial Government should give the Colonies the choice of protecting themselves—of being left to their own fate, or of permitting English manufactures to enter free of duty. In that case, it would be necessary for the Colonies either to resort to direct taxation, or to raise their revenue exclusively from foreign imports; and the latter would become impracticable, because such discrimination against foreign manufactures would almost entirely exclude them, and hardly any revenue would be raised. The English publishers, too, complain of our newly-imposed book duty of ten per cent, and speak as if the question of the right of the Colonies to tax British manufactures by an import duty was still undecided. To all these objections, Canada pays and will pay not the least attention. Her right to levy such duties as she may require for revenue purposes is unquestionable; but she has no right to do anything that might have the effect of discriminating against the manufactures of the nation on which she depends for protection.

The extent of the damage occasioned by the frost of the night of the 4th June, has been much exaggerated. The fruit crop was almost entirely destroyed; and this even in cases where the period of blossoming had passed, and the young fruit had been formed; it was nipped off on the stalk, and apples and plums fell by millions in a single day. Potatoes, of which the tops were cut off, are reviving, though they will be thrown back, and perhaps dwarfed. Corn was considerably injured; but it happens fortunately there is very little of this crop grown in Canada. Vegetables suffered severely; being either cut off or thrown back, in a great many cases. The wheat crop which, up to that date, presented an unusually promising appearance, was in some places, where the early sowing had been made, considerably damaged. On examination, the ears are found to be empty. This result, however, is only very partial; the damage done to the wheat being confined chiefly to particular soils in the south-west part of the country, where the crop was unusually forward. Instances of such damage are however reported as far north-east as Lake Simcoe. On the whole, however, the wheat crop still looks well. It has been thrown back by some three weeks of very cool weather, but may yet be ripe in tolerable season. The depredations of the wheat-fly and midge are not reported to be at all extensive; but perhaps the time was hardly come when the probable extent of the ravages of these insects can be known.

A libel suit in Lower Canada has just brought to light some curious revelations. *La Gazette de St. Jean* recently published a report, in which it was stated that M. Guereux, then a member of the Legislative Assembly, sold his vote on the Speaker's question, in 1854, for \$25. M. Laidore Barthe, editor and proprietor of the *Gazette*, had but recently gone to St. John, before the last general election; and M. Guereux, in the presence of a political meeting, had been grossly abused, and the simple French Canadians, at the church door, after leaving mass, that M. Barthe, who had only been among them about two months, was a very bad man, and had been drummed out of Three Rivers, where he had last lived. M. Barthe was complaining of these attacks one day, when Mr. Hart said to him, "Why do you not tell him (Guereux) what 'Turcotte told me about his selling his vote for \$25.' Next Sunday, at the close of mass, Guereux repeated the attack upon Barthe, when the latter retorted by repeating in the presence of the congregation, his opinion as to the value of a political vote, and what Hart had told him. This was on the 18th October, 1857; and four days after, Barthe printed the proceedings in *La Gazette*, including his accusation against Guereux. It was for this publication that the libel suit was instituted; and M. Guereux had the modesty to ask \$20,000! This amount was made up in a curious way. M. Guereux lost his seat at the ensuing general election; and of course he lost the expenses of the election, which were variously stated at from \$2,000 to \$4,000, and no bribery at that. What puzzles one is to know how a man who sold his vote so low—to be sure he voted twice on the same question, as came out in evidence—could afford to pay so much for the chance of being elected. However, the damages were not two points less, but a loss of dignity, which might be prostituted, and a loss of money. Nothing less than \$20,000 would make matters at all mend the rent in M. Guereux's reputation, and fill the dreary void created in his pocket. Witnesses swore that 300 votes clear were lost by the publication complained of; but only two lost voters could be named. But the evidence for the defense presented M. Guereux's grievance in a ludicrous light. It appeared that the editor of *La Gazette* had only told of one sale of the vote—the one to the Ministerial party—while, in point of fact, it had been sold twice; first to the Ministerialists, and then the Opposition. Mr. C. Boucher de Nierville swore that about four years ago I had occasion to meet M. Turcotte, at Three Rivers, several of us were together, all friends, and he said he had been sent to purchase M. Guereux's vote for the Conservative party for the Speaker, in 1854, would be warm. Mr. Drummond said to Mr. Turcotte, "There is 'Guereux' who can be bought." Here Judge Berthelot considerably interposed, saying, *Enfin de nommer les noms propres*, and the witness under this direction of the Court did not mention any additional names. Proceeding with his story, he said Mr. Turcotte related to me that he made a bargain with M. Guereux, and the latter agreed to give his vote in favor of the Ministerial candidate for \$25; but when the vote was taken, he ranged himself on the other side. M. Turcotte then declared his surprise to M. Guereux, and reproached him with what he had done. M. Guereux replied, "It is true, but the other side gave me \$30, and some days or weeks of board, and that is why I voted for them." His story was corroborated by several other witnesses. M. Turcotte, being always referred to as the authority. The Jury, strange to say, gave a verdict for the plaintiff, but with twenty cents instead of \$20,000 damages, leaving M. Guereux to pay costs.

The Governor-General is fishing on the Lower St. Lawrence.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, June 25, 1859.

The letter of Judge Douglas prescribing the platform of the Charleston Convention, has produced much excitement in Democratic circles. In those of the Administration he is denounced as a heretic and infidel, and if "Federalist" was not a forbidden term at Court he would probably be stigmatized with that reproach. In other quarters "disorganizer," and such like phrases, are the familiar forms of expressing the strong indignation which is felt. This movement of the Senator from Illinois is considered the entering wedge to a complete break up, and all efforts at harmony and conciliation at Charleston may now be abandoned, unless he and his friends should recede from the ground they have taken. The declarations of Judge Douglas engrafting a revival of the slave-trade and a Congressional slave code for the Territories on the Charleston

platform, and in favor of popular sovereignty, may be well enough for his position, but when they are used to cover up and endorse his "Kansas-Nebraska acts of 1854," which repealed the Missouri Compromise and opened that Pandora's box of evil and strife, which have been scattered broadcast over the Union since then, the experiment is not entitled to much favor, and is not likely to command success. This movement will probably be followed by a general repudiation of Judge Douglas in the South, and a more confirmed rupture in the ranks of the Democracy, which some well-disposed but verdant politicians believed were closing up and harmonizing.

The Constitution denied, in a conspicuous paragraph, yesterday morning, that any concessions or terms were made either by the President or Mr. Robert J. Walker in their recent reconciliation. This may be true literally, and probably the statement was drawn with reference to that construction. If it be true in any shape or form, directly or indirectly, it only adds to the shame and humiliation of both parties, after what had notoriously occurred. It was not possible for two honorable men to come together without the largest and fullest retractions, who had so openly and unqualifiedly assailed each other. Mr. Walker's denunciations are known everywhere, and it may be said within bounds, have been heard by hundreds here—denunciations, too, expressive of the utmost scorn, contumely, and reproach. How he could advance to personal terms, or allow friends to interfere, without recalling these repeated and most offensive imputations, is utterly incomprehensible to minds which value integrity and honor the relations by which individual respect can alone be maintained. It is well known in this city, whatever may be asserted by any organ to the contrary, that some time was required to patch up this truce, and if there was no actual treaty drawn, there was just as clear an understanding as between France and Russia in regard to the respective parties which they are to play in the great European drama.

The official paper is now almost exclusively devoted to laudation of the President and Cabinet. The immortal "six hundred" readers are willing to stand much in support of the cause and *The Constitution*, but this is really piling on the agony, and is not quite the entertainment to which they were invited. Considering that Mr. Wendell contributes \$8,000 per annum from the executive printing, and the Departments furnish about \$6,000 more in the shape of advertising, for the support of this paper, it is as natural as it is modest that the Administration should be praised at the public expense. But as we have seen nothing of the sort attempted before, perhaps our taste is badly formed, and falls below those approved models which are to be found in German Principality, where Baroness may be bought by the acre. It must be very refreshing for the Secretaries to see themselves in print at the breakfast table, and to be called upon before dinner to furnish their proportion of the daily provender for the organ.

probably supposed to be of no consequence, inasmuch as the Senator from Louisiana has been accustomed to order and be obeyed. For once, it has not exactly fallen out in that way, and Mr. Butlerworth must try again. Meanwhile, it is expected he will attend to the Assay Office.

Another attempt is making to put upon the market the contracts recently entered into by Mr. Johnson of New-York for the carrying of the mails. To this the operation is it is suggested that the Collins steamers are to be purchased, and the Company to be founded on the Vandayke arrangement with Nicaragua. In order that innocent parties may not be misled, it is proper to say, the latter is worthless, having been recently repudiated, and so far as the purchase of steamers is concerned, it should be known that Mr. Johnson's original proposition for this service states explicitly that he had at that time steamers on both sides ready to perform the contract. And subsequently, when delay occurred in giving the bond under his proposal, the excuse assigned was that he had been prevented by the purchase of steamers. These are facts of official record, and are wholly inconsistent with each other, though emanating from the same source.

Carloads of New-York politicians have arrived within the last twenty-four hours, all deeply exercised in regard to the proposed dismissal of one fourth of the Custom-House force in your virtuous and much-abused city. That simple-minded and innocent patriot J. C. Mather, who figured in the wars of Fort Snelling and Willet's Point, is at the head of the heap, and very much disturbed at the proposed retrenchment, by which two hundred worthless Democrats must work for their living, worthless Democrats, and a genuine Postmaster is also on the ground, ably sustained by Mr. John Cochrane, Mr. Macloy and other friends of the Union. All these excellent gentlemen consider the doom of the party sealed if a single hair is disturbed, and their urgent protestations have been heard at the White House and the Treasury with the deepest solicitude. Mr. Guthrie, an agent of the Department, who stands much in favor with Mr. Cobb, made the investigations upon which these abuses are to be corrected, and it will not be difficult to understand the reasons. There was just as much cause for correction in the flagrant errors a year and a half ago, as there is now, but while the country was pending, it was not considered prudent to contract the patronage. On the contrary, it was found necessary to expand it, and to this prompting may be ascribed the Utah war, where not a gun was fired, and \$12,000,000 was expended.

ARRIVAL OF THE GRANADA.—The United States mail steamship Granada, Jefferson Maury Commander, arrived here yesterday morning. Left Aspinwall early on the morning of 19th, with 350 passengers for New-York and New-Orleans. Arrived at Key West on the evening of the 23d at 7 o'clock. After having coaled and disembarked her New-Orleans passengers and mails, left again at 4 o'clock the following morning. She brings 300 passengers for New-York, beside a small mail from Key West. Key West was perfectly healthy.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The President, Mr. PURDY, in the chair.

Bills Paid—The Board passed the bill of J. L. Bloomfield, \$354.50, and W. D. Roe & Co., \$42.35, for printing and stationery; bill of James Spence, \$57, for the salary of the County's office; of Dr. Ramsey and Order, \$50 each, for services inquiring as to the sane condition of Boquet, John McDonald and Felix Sanchez; bill of Edward Murray, Deputy Sheriff, \$40, for attending at Court of Oyer and Terminer during the trial of Stephens; of Chas. Brown, \$182, for meals furnished Jurors during the trial of Stephens; of Gilbert Hubbard & Co., \$35, for a clock for the Clerk's office; of the New-York Gas Company, \$284, for gas used in the Recorder's office.

A resolution was adopted, to have the Superior Court rooms ventilated. The *Trust Commissioners*—Mr. LITTLE rose and remarked that one half of the Committee on County Officers had reported their views on the illegality of the Tax Commissioners' appointments, and now the other half wanted to present theirs. Mr. TWENTY opposed its reception, as the other report and report to the Board, in relation to the same, had been reported by the Board of Supervisors. Eleven voted in the affirmative, and one in the negative, when the report was declared received. It was then ordered printed in the minutes.

This report maintains that the Controller had the power to appoint the County Officers under the act of July 1st—1858, having on that day to act on the tax roll.

To the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee on County Officers to whom was referred the following resolution of this Board, "Resolved, That the Committee on County Officers inquire and report to this Board, in what extent the newly created Board of Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments, appointed under the Controller, affects the responsibilities devolving upon the Supervisors of this County in the appointment and levying of Taxes," beg leave respectfully to report:

That the importance of the inquiry directed by the resolution induced your Committee to give the subject the most careful and extended consideration, and the result of their examination is the conviction that there is nothing in the act creating the Board of Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments which violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, and which would be in violation of the duty of any of the powers which it formerly possessed in relation to the appointment of the officers who are required to make the preliminary valuation of property of the County for taxation. Your Committee are of opinion that the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), is a valid law, and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, and to amend the several acts in relation to the County Officers, is not affected by the act of April 1st, 1859 (Laws of 1859, chap. 392, p. 586, c. 392, c. 392), and that the power of the Board of Supervisors to amend the several acts in relation to